REMARKS

By this Amendment, claims 21, 31, and 37 are amended. After entry of this Amendment, claims

21-23, 25, 27 and 30-38 will be pending. Reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested in

view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

Interview

Applicants appreciate the courtesies extended by Supervisory Patent Examiner Andrew Faile

and Examiner Son Huynh during the December 3, 2002, telephone interview with Applicants'

representatives. During the interview, the "most specific" language of independent claims 21, 31, and

37 was discussed. The substance of the interview is summarized in the following remarks.

In response to the discussion during the interview, claims 21, 31, and 37 have each been

amended to recite that, in the claimed methods of displaying summary information, the summary

information is chosen from one or more kinds of summary information ranging in relatedness to the

selected programming with a preference for displaying the most closely related kind of summary

information available. In claims 21 and 37, the most closely related kind of summary information

available for the selected programming is displayed. In claim 31, the most closely related kind of

summary information available for the selected programming is retrieved from the memory. As

discussed below in detail, the applied references, whether considered alone or in combination, do not

teach or suggest these features.

Drawings

As indicated in the attached Request for Approval of Drawing Corrections, Fig. 5 has been

corrected as discussed during the interview for consistency with the specification and to the

amendments to claims 21, 31, and 37. No new matter is added.

Specifically, process block 130 was corrected to state "most closely related kind of video segment" in reference to the following language in the paragraph beginning at page 12, line 21 of the specification:

Preferably, the digitized <u>video segment relates to the specific episode</u> of the selected programming. If an episode-specific segment is not available, the digitized <u>video segment preferably relates to any program series</u> of which the selected programming episode is a part. If a series-specific segment is not available, the digitized <u>video segment preferably relates to the channel</u> carrying or broadcasting the selected programming.

Likewise, process block 132 was corrected to state "most closely related kind of still image" in reference to the following language in the paragraph beginning at page 13, line 3 of the specification:

Preferably, the <u>still image relates to the specific episode</u> of the selected programming. If an episode-specific still image is not available, the digitized <u>still image preferably relates to any program series</u> of which the selected programming episode is a part. If a series-specific still image is not available, the <u>digitized still image preferably relates to the channel</u> carrying or broadcasting the selected programming.

A complete set of formal drawings, including the corrected figure, is attached.

Applied Art

U.S. Patent No. 5,731,844 to Rauch et al. ("Rauch") is entitled "Television Scheduling System for Displaying a Grid Representing Scheduled Layout and Selecting a Programming Parameter for Display or Recording."

U.S. Patent No. 6,239,794 to Yuen et al. ("Yuen") is entitled "Method and System for Simultaneously Displaying a Television Program and Information about the Program."

U.S. Patent No. 5,619,249 to Billock et al. ("Billock") is entitled "Telecasting Service for Providing Video Programs on Demand with an Interactive Interface for Facilitating Viewer Selection of Video Programs."

35 U.S.C. § 103 Rejections

The Action rejects claims 21-23, 25, 27, and 30-36 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Rauch in view of Billock, and claims 37-38 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Rauch in view of

Billock, and further in view of Yuen. To establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness, three basic

criteria must be met. First, there must be some suggestion or motivation, either in the references

themselves or in the knowledge generally available to one of ordinary skill in the art, to modify the

reference or to combine reference teachings. Second, there must be a reasonable expectation of

success. Finally, the prior art reference (or references when combined) must teach or suggest all the

claim limitations. (MPEP § 2142.)

Claim 31

The Action rejects claim 31 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Rauch in view

of Billock. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

As indicated above, independent claim 31 is directed to an interactive televideo system and

recites that the "retrieved programming summary information is the most closely related kind of

summary information available for the selected programming."

For instance, as described in the specification at page 12, line 21 – page 13, line 10:

> Preferably, the digitized video segment relates to the specific episode of the selected
> programming. If an episode-specific segment is not available, the digitized video segment
> preferably relates to any program series of which the selected programming is a part. If a series-
> specific segment is not available, the digitized video segment preferably relates to the channel
> carrying or broadcasting the selected programming.

Neither Rauch nor Billock show or suggest that the retrieved summary information is "the most

closely related kind of summary information available for the selected programming."

Billock shows storing various kinds of information for a program, such as "video and audio

portions of short segments of the video programs, still images from the video programs, textual

descriptions of the available video programs, and listings of the available video programs." *See* col. 8,

lines 34-40. Billock provides a selection actuator to allow the user to select a program for viewing

along with the help of a still image relating to the program, and provides a preview mode and an

information mode. *See* col. 10, lines 54-67. The preview mode preferably allows the viewer to view a 30-second video segment, while the information mode provides the textual description of the program.

Billock, however, does not show that the "retrieved programming summary information is the most closely related kind of summary information available for the selected programming." Billock fails to show making any determination of what summary information to retrieve based on how related the summary information is to the program.

In contrast, implementations of the interactive program summary panel of this application retrieve summary information for a program by determining which information is the most related from a number of different options. For instance, summary information associated with Program A, during a particular Season 1, of series A, on station AB, could consist of video clips of Program A, video clips of Season 1, video clips of Series A, or video clips of Station AB. The system of claim 31 when retrieving summary information for program A would retrieve the Program A clips, because they are the information most related to the program. If such clips were unavailable, the Season 1 clips would be selected, because with the Program A clips unavailable, the Season 1 clips would be the information most related to the program. If both Program A clips and Season 1 clips were unavailable, Series A clips would be retrieved, and so on.

Since the cited references, whether considered alone or in combination, fail to show or suggest at least the claimed feature in which "the retrieved programming summary information is the most closely related kind of summary information available for the selected programming," the rejection is improper and should be withdrawn. Claims 32-36 depend from claim 31, and thus are allowable for at least the same reasons, as well as for the respective additional features recited therein.

Claim 21

The Action rejects claim 21 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Rauch in view of Billock. Applicants respectfully disagree and traverse the rejection.

As indicated above, independent claim 21 is directed to an interactive televideo system and has been amended herein to recite in part, "displaying the most closely related kind of summary information available for the selected programming." This feature is similar to the retrieved summary information described above with respect to claim 31.

Claim 21 recites *displaying* the most closely related kind of summary information, rather than *retrieving* the most closely related kind of summary information as recited in claim 31. For similar reasons as discussed with respect to claim 31, Billock and Rauch, whether considered alone or in combination, do not show or suggest displaying summary information related to a program by determining which kind of information is the most closely related to the program.

Since the cited references, whether considered alone or in combination, fail to show or suggest at least the claimed feature "displaying the most closely related kind of summary information available for the selected programming," the rejection is improper and should be withdrawn. Claims 22, 23, 25, 27, and 30 depend from claim 21, and thus are allowable for at least the same reasons, as well as for the respective additional features recited therein.

Claim 37

The Action rejects claim 37 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Rauch in view of Billock, and further in view of Yuen. Applicants respectfully disagree and traverse the rejection.

As indicated above, independent claim 37 is directed to an interactive televideo system and states in part, "accessing and displaying at the individual user station the most closely related kind of summary information available for the selected programming simultaneously with the program guide."

This feature is similar to that described with respect to claim 21. As previously asserted with respect to claim 21, none of the referenced cited by the Examiner, nor any combination of those references, show displaying summary information associated with a program by determining which information is the most closely related kind of summary information.

Since the cited references, whether considered alone or in combination, fail to show or suggest

at least the claimed feature "accessing and displaying at the individual user station the most closely

related kind of summary information available for the selected programming simultaneously with the

program guide," the rejection is improper and should be withdrawn. Claim 38 depends from claim 37,

and thus is allowable for at least the same reasons, as well as the additional feature recited therein.
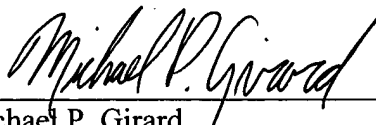
CONCLUSION

The pending claims in their present form should now be allowable. Should the Examiner

require additional information to place this application in better condition for allowance, the Examiner

is requested to contact the undersigned by telephone.

Respectfully submitted,

KLARQUIST SPARKMAN, LLP

By _____

Michael P. Girard
Registration No. 38,467

One World Trade Center, Suite 1600
121 S.W. Salmon Street
Portland, Oregon 97204
Telephone: (503) 226-7391
Facsimile: (503) 228-9446
(30702.3)

Marked-Up Version of Claims Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.121(c)

21.   (Amended)   In an interactive televideo system having a central control node in bidirectional communication with plural viewer stations that include video display sets operably coupled to interactive station controllers, the central control node delivering video programming over multiple channels to the plural viewer stations and receiving information from the interactive station controllers, the system including a programming guide from which viewers select programming, a method of displaying [for a viewer] summary information chosen from one or more kinds of summary information ranging in relatedness to the selected programming with a preference for displaying the most closely related kind of summary information available [relating to programming included in the programming guide], comprising:

providing programming information from the central control node to an interactive station controller, the programming information including at least the identities of a plurality of available programs;

providing summary information from the central control node to an interactive station controller, wherein the summary information is associated with at least one of the available programs and comprises display imagery including one or more of a still image, a plurality of images, a video segment of less than the entire program, or the current broadcast of the program;

storing the programming information at the interactive station controller;

storing the summary information at the interactive station controller;

accessing the programming information and displaying the programming information in the programming guide on the video display;

obtaining a user selection indication corresponding to programming selected by the viewer from the programming guide;

accessing in response to the user selection indication the summary information relating to the

programming selected by the viewer; and

displaying the [program summary information] most closely related kind of summary information

available for the selected programming.

22.   (Unchanged)   The method of claim 21 in which the summary information includes a text

description relating to the programming selected by the viewer.

23.   (Unchanged)   The method of claim 22 in which the displaying of the summary information

includes displaying the text description in a text description window.

25.   (Unchanged)   The method of claim 21 in which the displaying of the summary information

includes displaying the display imagery in a preview display window.

27.   (Unchanged)   The method of claim 21 in which the selected programming is transmitted

from the central control node when the programming is selected by the viewer and the video segment

includes the transmitted selected programming.

30.   (Unchanged)   The method of claim 21 in which the summary information includes a text

description and display imagery relating to the program selected by the viewer.

31.   (Amended)   In an interactive video system having a central control node in bidirectional

communication with plural viewer stations that include video display sets operably coupled to

interactive station controllers, the central control node delivering video programming over multiple

channels to the plural viewer stations and receiving information from the interactive station controllers, the system including a programming guide from which viewers select programming, a method of displaying summary information [for a viewer] <u>chosen from one or more kinds of summary information ranging in relatedness to the selected programming with a preference for displaying the most closely related kind of summary information available</u> [relating to programming included in the programming guide], comprising:

obtaining from the central control node programming summary information that relates to programming available to a viewer, the [program] <u>programming</u> summary information including at least a plurality of images, each image being related to at least one of the available programming;

storing the programming summary information in a memory associated with the interactive station controller system;

obtaining an indication of programming selected by the viewer from the programming guide;

retrieving from the memory the programming summary information corresponding to the programming selected by the viewer from the programming guide in response to the obtained indication, wherein the retrieved programming summary information is the <u>most closely related kind of summary information available for the selected programming</u> [most program-specific information available among a plurality of programming summary information options for the selected programming]; and

displaying the retrieved programming summary information for the viewer on a video display set.

32. (Unchanged) The method of claim 31 in which the summary information further includes a text description relating to the programming selected by the viewer and at least some of the images are video segments.

33. (Unchanged) The method of claim 32 in which the text description and video segment are displayed in, respectively, a text description window and a preview display window that are displayed adjacent each other.

34. (Unchanged) The method of claim 31 in which the programming summary information is displayed simultaneously with the programming guide.

35. (Unchanged) The method of claim 31 in which the programming summary information displayed for the viewer includes an icon indicating a predetermined characteristic of the selected programming.

36. (Unchanged) The method of claim 35 in which the predetermined characteristic of the selected programming is selectively cued by the viewer.

37. (Amended) In an interactive video system having a central control node in bidirectional communication with plural viewer stations that include video display sets operably coupled to interactive station controllers, the central control node delivering video programming over multiple channels to the plural viewer stations and receiving information from the interactive station controllers, the system including a programming guide listing programming available to a viewer, a method of displaying summary information at an individual user station chosen from one or more kinds of summary information ranging in relatedness to the selected programming with a preference for displaying the most closely related kind of summary information available, comprising:

providing from the central control node to the plurality of viewer stations programming information, the programming information including an identification of a plurality of programs

currently available from the central control node and an identification of a plurality of future programs

that will be available from the central control node at a future time;

storing the programming information at the plurality of viewer stations;

providing from the central control node to the plurality of viewer stations summary information,

wherein the summary information is associated with at least one of the available programs and display

imagery including one or more of a still image, a plurality of images, a video segment of less than the

entire program, or the current broadcast of the program;

storing the summary information at the plurality of viewer stations;

accessing and displaying the programming information at an individual user station in response to

a request from a viewer of the individual user station to display the program guide;

obtaining a user selection at the individual user station, the user selection indicating a currently

selected program within the program guide;

in response to a user selection of a currently available program, displaying at the individual user

station the currently available program simultaneously with the program guide; and

in response to a user selection of one of the at least one of the future programs, accessing and

displaying at the individual user station the <u>most closely related kind of summary information available</u>

<u>for the selected programming</u> [summary information for the selected program] simultaneously with the

program guide.

38.   (Unchanged)   The method of claim 37 in which the summary information includes a text

description relating to the programming available to the viewer and the text description is displayed

simultaneously with the selected program and the programming guide in response to a user selection of

a currently available program.

MARKED-UP
COPY

FIG. 5

RETRIEVE PROGRAM
SCHEDULE INFORMATION —100

DISPLAY PROGRAMMING GUIDE —104

VIEWER SELECTS
PROGRAM TILE —108

EPG
DATABASE —102

REQUEST PROGRAM
SUMMARY INFORMATION —110

RETRIEVE AND DISPLAY PROGRAM
SUMMARY PANEL TEXT
DESCRIPTION AND INFORMATION
ICONS —114

SELECTED
PROGRAM IS
CURRENT
BROADCAST
? —116

NO → RETRIEVE PREVIEW
MEDIA INFORMATION —122

YES

TUNE AND DISPLAY
BROADCAST STREAM
IN PREVIEW WINDOW —118

VIDEO
SEGMENT
AVAILABLE
? —128

NO → RETRIEVE AND
DISPLAY [DIGITIZED
STILL IMAGE]
IN PREVIEW
WINDOW —132

MOST CLOSELY
RELATED KIND
OF STILL IMAGE

YES

CUE AND DISPLAY
[VIDEO STREAM] IN
PREVIEW WINDOW —130

MOST CLOSELY
RELATED KIND
OF VIDEO SEGMENT

VIEWER
CHANGES
PROGRAM
TILE
? —134

YES

NO —136

END